

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4910**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2019

**CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND INTO CULTIVABLE LAND**

4910. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large chunk of land in various parts of the country including Rajasthan is lying barren;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the area of such land State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy to convert barren land into cultivable land after consultation with the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): As per publication on Land Use Statistics for 2014-15 (latest available), State-wise details of barren & unculturable land including the state of Rajasthan for the year 2014-15 is at **Annex I**. This includes all land covered by mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost.

(d) to (f): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert barren land into arable land. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government through various programmes.

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Contd...2/-

Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16 principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The activities being undertaken through the watershed development projects *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons etc.

Apart from this, to reclaim and develop barren lands ICAR has developed location specific bio-engineering measures for soil & water conservation, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkaline, waterlogged and acidic soils. While Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rain water, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has developed sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion. ICAR through Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Salt Affected Soils has developed reclamation technology, sub-surface drainage, bio-drainage, agroforestry interventions and salt tolerant crop varieties to improve the productivity of saline, sodic and waterlogged soils in the country. The ICAR also imparts training, organises Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

## Annex I

## Annexure referred in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 4910 due for answer on 23/07/19

State-wise details of barren &amp; unculturable land in the country for the year 2014-15 (latest available)

(thousand hectares)

STATES/UTs	Barren & Unculturable land
ANDHRA PRADESH	1351
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	37
ASSAM	1190
BIHAR	432
CHHATTISGARH	288
GOA	–
GUJARAT	2552
HARYANA	119
HIMACHAL PRADESH	777
JAMMU & KASHMIR	305
JHARKHAND	568
KARNATAKA	787
KERALA	13
MADHYA PRADESH	1357
MAHARASHTRA	1727
MANIPUR	1
MEGHALAYA	129
MIZORAM	6
NAGALAND	2
ODISHA	1078
PUNJAB	58
RAJASTHAN	2403
SIKKIM	–
TAMIL NADU	489
TELANGANA	607
TRIPURA	–
UTTARAKHAND	228
UTTAR PRADESH	462
WEST BENGAL	11
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2
CHANDIGARH	–
DADRA & N HAVELI	0
DAMAN & DIU	–
DELHI	18
LAKSHADWEEP	–
PUDUCHERRY	0
<b>ALL INDIA</b>	<b>16996</b>

Note:'0' relates to the area below 500 Hectares

'-' Not Available

Source: Directorate of Economics And Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

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